

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 32, with the following amended paragraph:

“Some exemplary forming members 13 may comprise structures as shown in Figures 2-8 including a fluid-permeable reinforcing element 70 and a pattern or framework 60 extending therefrom to form a plurality of channels 53. In one embodiment, as shown in Figures 5 and 6, the forming member 13 may comprise a plurality of discrete protuberances 61 joined to or integral with a reinforcing element 70. The reinforcing element 70 generally serves to provide or facilitate integrity, stability, and durability. The reinforcing element 70 can be fluid-permeable or partially fluid-permeable, may have a variety of embodiments and weave patterns, and may comprise a variety of materials, such as, for example, a plurality of interwoven yarns (including Jacquard-type and the like woven patterns), a felt, a plastic or other synthetic material, a net, a plate having a plurality of holes, or any combination thereof. Examples of suitable reinforcing elements 70 are described in U.S. Patents 5,496,624, issued March 5, 1996 to Stelljes, et al., 5,500,277 issued Mar. 19, 1996 to Trokhan et al., and 5,566,724 issued Oct. 22, 1996 to Trokhan et al. Alternatively, a reinforcing element 70 comprising a Jacquard-type weave, or the like, can be utilized. Illustrative belts can be found in U.S. Patents 5,429,686 issued July 4, 1995 to Chiu, et al.; 5,672,248 issued Sept. 30, 1997 to Wendt, et al.; 5,746,887 issued May 5, 1998 to Wendt, et al.; and 6,017,417 issued January 25, 2000 to Wendt, et al. Further, various designs of the Jacquard-weave pattern may be utilized as a forming member 13.”

Appl. No. 10/740,260
Atty. Docket No. 9476
Amtd. dated February 3, 2004
Customer No. 27752

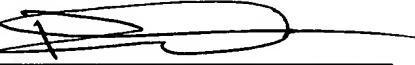
Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 5 and 8. These sheets, which include Fig. 4-6 and Fig. 7-9A replace the original sheets including Fig. 4-6 and Fig. 7-9A. In Figure 5, previously omitted element 13 has been added. In Figure 8, the occurrence of element 10 in the center region has been changed to 103.

Attachment: Two Replacement Sheets

Two Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 2/3/04
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